

REMARKS

By previous Amendment, claims 7-12 and 18-23 were canceled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 24 are amended. Furthermore, new claims 25-28 were added. Claims 3 and 14 were also previously canceled. As a result, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13, 15-17 and 24-28 are pending. Independent claims 1, 13 and 24 were amended to add the patentable limitation that the subscriber terminals are insulation displacement connectors. Dependent claims 4-6 were amended to correct inadvertent errors, and thereby provide proper antecedent basis. The amendments to dependent claims 4-6 merely clarify the existing limitations, and thus, do not narrow the scope of claims as originally filed. New independent claim 25 combines the limitations of canceled claims 7 and 9. New dependent claim 26 replaces canceled claim 8 and provides proper dependency from claim 25. New independent claim 27 combines the limitations of canceled claims 7, 10 and 11. New dependent claim 28 replaces canceled claim 8 and provides proper dependency from claim 27.

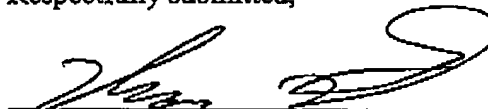
Applicants respectfully request entry of the previous amendment and examination of the new claims 25-28.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. This response being fully responsive to the Office Action, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance and solicit such favorable action on the part of the Examiner. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly to further the prosecution of any remaining issues, and thereby expedite allowance of the application.

This response does not result in additional independent claims or total claims than paid for previously (5 independent and 14 total claims). Accordingly, no fee for excess independent or total claims is due. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge and any fee due in connection with the filing of this response to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not already accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,



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